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Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
First session
New York, 10-14 January 2011

Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on its first session

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Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held its first session at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 10 to 14 January 2011.

I. Organization of work

A. Organizational meeting

2. The organizational meeting of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee was held on 17 December 2010 at United Nations Headquarters.

B. Election of officers

3. At its organizational meeting (1st plenary meeting), the Preparatory Committee elected its officers as follows:

Chairman: Jarmo Viinanen (Finland)

Vice-Chairs: Abdulkalam Abdul Momen (Bangladesh)
Gary Francis Quinlan (Australia)
Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic)
Aman Hassen Bame (Ethiopia)
Léo Mérorès (Haiti)
Lilla Makkay, Director, International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Hungary)
Hardeep Singh Puri (India)
Brian G. Bowler (Malawi)
Andrej Logar, Ambassador, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Slovenia)

4. The Committee decided that Turkey, host country to the Conference, and members of the Global Coordinating Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries, namely Benin, Nepal, Solomon Islands and the Sudan, would be fully associated with the work of the Bureau as ex officio members.

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

5. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the agenda for its first substantive session, as follows:

1. Opening of the first session.
2. Preparations for the Conference: briefings and presentations.
3. General debate.
4. Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Conference.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee agreed to the programme of work as proposed in document A/CONF.219/IPC/1/Rev.1.

7. During the organizational meeting, the Chair of the Preparatory Committee invited Member States to contribute substantive inputs for the outcome of the Istanbul Conference.

D. Opening of the session

8. The first substantive session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was opened at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 January 2011, by Jarmo Viinanen (Finland), Chair of the Committee.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee elected Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou, (Benin) Rapporteur.

10. At its 1st plenary meeting on 10 January, the Committee heard briefings and presentations on preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. The Secretary-General of the Conference, Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, presented to the Committee the summary of the outcomes of pre-conference events, among other things. Presentations were also made by Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan of Turkey, speaking in his capacity as the representative of the host country for the Conference; Anda Filip, Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations, on the parliamentary track of the Conference and preparatory process; Arjun Karki, Chair of the Civil Society Organization Steering Committee, on the civil society track; and Gavin Power, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Office, on the private sector track (see paras. 18-23 of the present report).

11. At its 1st to 3rd plenary meetings, on 10 and 11 January, the Committee held a general debate on the substantive preparation for the Conference, including its outcome (see paras. 24-78).

12. In the course of the general debate, the Committee heard 55 statements: 43 from Member States and 12 from intergovernmental organizations. The statements were made by the representatives of Yemen (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Nepal (on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries), Hungary (on behalf of the European Union), Australia (on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand), Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, the Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zambia.

13. On behalf of international agencies and civil society, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Common Fund for Commodities, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Enhanced

Integrated Framework (EIF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

14. From 12 to 14 January, the Committee held six informal meetings, during which it deliberated on the outcome of the Istanbul Conference. For its deliberations on that item, the Committee had before it a non-paper entitled "Compilation of contributions for the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".

15. During informal meetings, the representative of Turkey briefed the Committee on practical arrangements and preparations being made by the host country. Thereafter, the Committee held structured discussions on the non-paper, based on the Bureau's proposed clusters, following the presentation by the Chair of the Group of Least Developed Countries on the primary document.

16. At the 4th (final) plenary meeting, on 14 January 2011, the Committee considered other matters, including follow-up consultations in the intersessional period, with a view to making further progress towards an outcome of the Istanbul Conference, based on the non-paper "Compilation of contributions for the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries"* and other inputs.

E. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee

17. At the 4th plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted its draft report (A/CONF.219/IPC/L.1) and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it in the light of the proceedings of the closing plenary meeting.

II. Substantive preparation for the Conference

Briefings and presentations

18. **The Secretary-General of the Conference** lauded the decision of the General Assembly, as contained in resolution 63/227, to convene the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011 as representing the will of the international community to continue to place at the top of the international agenda support for the 48 poorest and most vulnerable countries of the world. He stated that the Conference would be the biggest and most comprehensive development summit of the new decade. He noted that while some notable progress had been recorded, especially in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates, capital formation, education and gender equality targets, least developed countries had not achieved the necessary structural transformation to allow them to pursue sustained and sustainable growth and development. Major challenges remained in the areas of

* The document referred to is on file with the Secretariat and is available for consultation.

access to safe drinking water, infant and maternal mortality, infrastructure and productive capacity development. Poverty remained high and around 78 per cent of their population still lived on less than $2 a day. The inability of the least developed countries to cope with endogenous and exogenous shocks persisted, as was evidenced by the negative impact of the recent successive crises in the areas of food, energy, commodity markets, global finance and the economy on their development efforts. Climate change also continued to pose a serious threat to the livelihood of their populations. Commendable efforts had been made by development partners on their commitments, particularly in the areas of debt relief, trade, official development assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investment. However, there was an urgent need to make international support measures more adequate and effective in specificity, scale, scope and quality.

19. A reinvigorated global partnership, based on a new international support architecture, should be adopted in Istanbul with targeted measures, policies and mechanisms in support of least developed countries, grounded in the global recognition of the least developed countries category, as defined by the United Nations vulnerability index. All Member States were encouraged to participate in the Conference at the highest possible level as a gesture of solidarity in favour of least developed countries and support in building a new compact for prosperity for all.

20. The representative of **Turkey**, the host country of the Conference, underscored that in Istanbul the international community would be charting a new development path for the least developed countries in the next decade. The outcome document should comprise a short political declaration and a detailed programme of action. The political declaration needed to send a strong message to the international community from the Heads of State and Government about building an enhanced global partnership and stressing the importance of multilateralism. It also needed to put forward the modalities of a renewed framework for development cooperation, including goals and actions that are coherent with each other and with existing commitments under parallel processes. It was also critical to set out a systematic and effective monitoring and review mechanism, in order to follow progress towards the achievement of goals and commitments in a timely manner, and to step up coordinated action when necessary. The representative concluded by confirming that the host country attached utmost importance to the participation of least developed countries in the Conference at the highest political level, to be complemented by matching attendance from all development partners, from both the North and the South.

21. The representative of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** stated that the Brussels Programme of Action had dedicated only scant attention to the role of Parliament as a key institution of good governance in promoting the Brussels development agenda at the national level through the budgetary process, the enactment of appropriate legislation and, more generally, its representational role, aiming to ensure that the concerns of all citizens be brought to bear in the policymaking process. Progress was made during the decade to involve parliaments in the effective implementation of the Brussels Programme. For instance, the parliaments of 18 least developed countries had appointed Brussels Programme of Action focal points within their institutions. It was, however, stressed that most parliaments, including in developed countries, remained insufficiently aware of the Brussels Programme, which needed to be corrected under the new programme of

action so that all parliaments could play a stronger role in holding their Governments accountable for their commitments to the least developed countries. At the global level, a parliamentary briefing took place on the occasion of the 123rd IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2010; parliamentarians had actively participated in several pre-conference events; a parliamentary forum was scheduled to take place on the eve of the Conference in Istanbul with a view to reviewing the role of parliaments of least developed countries in the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action during the past decade, promoting parliamentary action on all items on the agenda of the Conference and ensuring adequate involvement in the implementation of the new programme of action.

22. The representative of **LDC Watch** briefed the Committee on the contribution of civil society to achieving of the Conference objectives. He stated that civil society was strongly committed to working constructively with Member States and other stakeholders to secure that the new programme of action positively impacted not only least developed countries, but also humanity as a whole. A bold new agenda was needed that would reduce the number of least developed countries in the next decade. The agenda should spell out in detail the goals of the global community and how to achieve them, place people and the planet above profits, and involve all countries and sectors of society. Human rights must be genuinely recognized and respected, particularly those of traditionally ignored and marginalized groups such as women, children and indigenous peoples, and specific ways included to redress injustices against them immediately.

23. The representative of the **United Nations Global Compact Office** stated that the private sector track of the Conference offered a historic opportunity to raise global awareness of the importance of sustained and sustainable private sector development in least developed countries. The private sector track would offer the possibility of increasing widespread Government and business interest in least developed countries, and to connect Governments and businesses with least developed country enterprises. He underscored that trade-winds were favourable, with a greater consensus on the private sector's role in development and more Governments embracing foreign direct investment as a complement to development aid. Moreover, rising numbers of firms from least developed countries were looking to be connected to the global economy. The private sector track would feature three major components. The first would be the Investment and Partnership Summit, a high-level event convening Heads of States and chief executive officers from least developed countries and partner countries. During the Summit, Governments and business leaders would be encouraged to commit to a new development framework for the least developed countries and engage in collaborative partnerships. The second component would be the Global Business Partnership Forum for Least Developed Countries' Development, a multi-stakeholder working-level platform for dialogue offering workshops, policy forums and plenary sessions aimed at seeking practical solutions to challenges faced by least developed countries. The Forum would be expected to expand beyond the Conference and translate into an ongoing platform for least developed country partnerships. The third component would be the Trade Fair, where export and other commercial opportunities in the least developed countries would be showcased. The Fair would be designed to facilitate group discussions and interactive dialogue to promote wider knowledge of challenges faced by least developed countries. The private sector track was being managed by a private sector steering committee, led by the United Nations Global

Compact, comprising private sector network representatives from least developed country regions and Turkey, as well as key United Nations and international organizations.

General debate

24. The representative of **Yemen**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, reiterated the solidarity of the Group with the least developed countries. He expressed appreciation for the diligent work and continued support of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in the preparation of the Conference. The success of the new programme of action would depend on the least developed countries themselves taking ownership of and a leadership role in effectively implementing policy choices, in full flexibility and within an adequate policy space, each according to its conditions, with the enhanced, predictable and targeted support of development partners needed for the socio-economic transformation of the least developed countries. The international community had therefore the task to come up with a concrete and practical programme with clear and measurable targets and time frames for implementation.

25. The representative of **Nepal**, speaking on behalf of the **Group of Least Developed Countries**, stated that the goal of the Committee was to work out a decade-long programme of action for renewed partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners with a view to improving the living standards of almost a billion people. While being a heterogeneous group of countries with distinct vulnerabilities, all least developed countries were trapped in a vicious circle of poverty owing to the combined effects of structural weaknesses and extreme vulnerabilities. He recognized the close interdependence among least developed countries, developing and developed countries, with each having a stake in the others' security, prosperity and welfare as members of the international community. He identified the key priorities of the least developed countries for Istanbul, the foremost being that of building competitive and diversified productive capacities as the only way for least developed countries to structurally transform their economies, sustain development gains, generate gainful employment, compete in the global economy, increase resilience to shocks and eventually graduate from least developed country status. Other priorities for the new programme of action included ensuring agricultural development and food security; overcoming infrastructure bottlenecks and integrating least developed countries into the global trading system; addressing human and social development challenges and achieving the Millennium Development Goals with the right balance of resource allocation in both economic and social sectors; building a new international support architecture, ensuring a multi-stakeholder approach and a solid mutual accountability framework with follow-up and monitoring mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels.

26. The representative of **Hungary**, speaking on behalf of the European Union, as well as of the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, reiterated the commitment of the European Union to the successful outcome of the Conference, which was seen as a major opportunity to enhance support for the least developed countries, particularly in the wake of the

High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals. The structure of the outcome document should be inspired by that of the outcome document of the High-level Plenary on the Millennium Development Goals, starting with a short political chapeau conveying a strong message of commitment of the international community in favour of least developed countries and recalling fundamental principles and values, including the primary responsibility of least developed countries for their own development. A short review of progress would follow and identify successes, shortcomings, and challenges of, and opportunities for, the least developed countries. The new programme of action should be focused, targeting specific needs of least developed countries, realistic in its ambitions and operational, including a proper follow-up process building on existing United Nations mechanisms to review progress on a regular basis. It should address four key sets of issues: (i) good governance, democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, the promotion of gender equality and the role of civil society; (ii) coherence of public policies to promote development objectives; (iii) the establishment of favourable national policies and conditions to mobilize domestic resources and leverage international resources for development, to be complemented by increased quality and effectiveness of aid and by tapping innovative sources and mechanisms of financing for development; and (iv) taking into account the changes in the world economy since 2001, an increasing share of assistance to least developed countries should be provided by emerging economies. The new programme of action should promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth for least developed countries, address their fragility and enhance their resilience to shocks.

27. The representative of **Australia**, speaking on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand (CANZ), stated that the Istanbul Conference should produce a concise, focused, balanced and action-oriented outcome document. He underscored the importance of greater inclusion of least developed countries in global processes, including a greater voice and benefits for least developed countries with regard to the global economic architecture. Enhancing productive and trade capacities of least developed countries was instrumental, but, likewise, human development was a prerequisite to inclusive and sustained economic growth. The catalytic role of women in development needed to be fully reflected in the new programme of action. Furthermore, good governance, including strong, effective institutions, respect for human rights, partnerships with civil society and the prevention of corruption were all essential elements for least developed country development. Likewise, finding better ways to reduce the risk and effects of climate change, conflict, environmental degradation and financial shocks should be prioritized.

28. The representative of **Bangladesh** wished to see that the imperatives identified through the regional level preparation were properly reflected in the final outcome document. The new programme of action should focus on limited goals of crucial importance and include a comprehensive and decisive set of policy actions aimed at overcoming the multiple crises. Special efforts should be made to integrate the least developed countries into regional markets by enhancing their trade capacity. It was imperative that all developed countries provide full and effective duty-free, quota-free market access to all products of all least developed countries and meet ODA targets. As for the monitoring mechanism, he suggested the establishment of a strict and legally binding follow-up mechanism to the new programme of action, with provision for designating focal points at different institutions and a coordination

role for the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

29. The representative of **Brazil** said that the outcome document of the Conference should convey a strong political message in support of least developed countries and set out a clear action agenda for the implementation of agreed least developed country-specific goals and commitments, including time-bound targets. She stressed that traditional sources of financing and innovative mechanisms, such as debt-for-health and other debt-swap arrangements, could provide resources to specific priority areas while helping least developed countries to reach debt sustainability. It was noted that trade liberalization in agriculture, including the elimination of trade distorting subsidies, would be a much more effective measure to ensure development of least developed countries. United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, under the overall coordination of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, should be fully integrated into the international framework in support of the least developed countries and should develop le st developed country-specific programmes.

30. The representative of the **Sudan** underlined that security could not be achieved in the face of armed conflict. The Conference should include a call to global partners to help resolve armed conflicts in an objective and just manner. They should commit to providing the necessary aid to least developed countries emerging from conflict. Like other least developed countries, the Sudan had been affected by the economic crisis, as well as the referendum for South Sudan, but it had scored some success in infrastructure development. The Istanbul declaration should include a paragraph about lifting international sanctions and easing least developed countries' accession to the World Trade Organization.

31. The representative of **Lesotho** underscored that the least developed countries aimed to achieve increased voice and representation in the international financial architecture, enhanced fiscal and policy space, full integration into international trade and advancement of technological development, and that achieving these ambitions would remain elusive without strong international cooperation and support. Remittances from migrants abroad were an important source of development finance for most least developed countries. The challenge, however, remained in terms of data capturing and the use of knowledge and skills of intellectuals in the diaspora in the country of origin.

32. The representative of the **Republic of Korea** mentioned that the nexus of the Istanbul Conference with the Millennium Development Goals must be considered, and thus the need to synthesize the approach of the Brussels Programme of Action with that of the Millennium Development Goals in order to deliver a consistent message. Also, while support for least developed countries had increased, it had not been distributed equally in terms of geography and need, he noted, urging consideration of how best to tailor support. The message of the Conference must be clear, concise and action-oriented, which would strengthen the political nature of the outcome document. The crucial role of new and innovative partnerships should not be forgotten.

33. The representative of **India** said that problems of least developed countries, such as structural weakness, lack of productive capacities, infrastructure and institutional strength, as well as extreme poverty, had persisted, and it was now time

to focus on solutions. Efforts must be focused on strengthening international support measures including South-South cooperation in favour of development of least developed countries and on how domestic actions by least developed countries themselves could lead to economic transformation. The private sector had an important role to play in generating growth, but the onus was on least developed countries themselves to create a domestic environment conducive to private enterprise. Helping least developed countries in "technological leapfrogging" could ensure energy security through clean technologies. Ahead of the Conference, India, in cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, would host an India/least developed country ministerial conference on 18 and 19 February.

34. The representative of **Ethiopia** underscored that the hard-won development gains of least developed countries had been compromised by low and unpredictable external development assistance as well as food-price and financial crises. As a member of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, he mentioned that Ethiopia had made progress on all fronts in efforts to realize the Brussels Programme of Action and had developed a new five-year national development plan that is intended to help the country achieve other international development goals. These goals may not be achieved without significant external assistance.

35. The representative of **Egypt** said that commitments had not been fulfilled since the last United Nations Conference on least developed countries held in Brussels. The development process in least developed countries should be viewed in a comprehensive and integrated manner, by promoting policy coherence, consistency and governance of the international, economic, financial and trading systems to increase the effectiveness of international support measures and enhance the resilience of least developed countries to external shocks and natural disasters. Furthermore, support to least developed countries by the United Nations and international financial institutions should be intensified.

36. The representative of **Slovenia** said the outcome document of the Istanbul Conference should be forward looking and action-oriented. It must also be realistic and include inputs from all stakeholders, ensuring that the least developed countries themselves were in the "driving seat". The recent multiple crises should not be seen as obstacles to reaching a new global action agenda for the next decade, but rather as an incentive for an innovative and united approach to addressing those challenges. Constructive engagement from the start and promptly concluded intergovernmental negotiations were important for the success of the Conference.

37. The representative of **Japan** said that his country, having extended substantial assistance to least developed countries, was committed to their development. The following principles and policies should guide the framing of the Istanbul outcome: least developed countries' ownership and their own self-help efforts are of fundamental importance and, in this regard, the role of international support based on partnership should be to back up efforts by least developed countries themselves. The ultimate goal of providing assistance to least developed countries was to realize their self-sustained development, requiring an "autonomous" economic growth mechanism. By recognizing South-South and triangular cooperation as an indispensable means of international cooperation and at the same time engaging all

stakeholders in a broader partnership, including Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee members, emerging countries and the private sector, the Conference would be able to achieve tangible results.

38. The representative of **Belgium** stressed that development aid alone would not ensure economic growth and human development in the least developed countries. The relationship between developed and developing countries should go beyond the stage of assistance and solidarity and should progress to mutually beneficial economic partnership. The Istanbul Conference must propose a resolute, balanced approach combining the development of productive capacities, and the development of human and social capital. It must offer a remedy for the chronic institutional weakness of many least developed countries and stand up against corruption. It was stressed that the integration of the least developed countries in the global context is a matter of partnerships with all nations, including the most industrialized, as well as emerging economies and those countries where the development process has just taken off, and with the United Nations, international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector.

39. The representative of the **United States of America** said the development of the world's poorest countries was a moral, strategic and economic imperative shared by all. The United States approach to least developed countries was guided by broader agreements from the recent High-level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, the 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the 2002 Monterrey Consensus. The Istanbul programme of action must be narrowly focused and realistic, advancing proven policies and best practices, and should be based on a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of the Brussels Programme of Action. Other sources of development finance beyond ODA, including domestic resource mobilization, foreign direct investment, responsible lending and sustainable debt, remittances and diaspora returnees, contributions of civil society organizations, and burgeoning South-South cooperation, could be expanded upon as promising sources of development financing or assistance. The Istanbul Conference should focus on aid effectiveness and emerging sources of finance, rather than setting volume targets for ODA.

40. The representative of **Zambia** stressed that a major challenge for least developed countries had been persistently high poverty levels, which, in Zambia's case, had not been commensurate with economic growth. In the next decade, Zambia would aim to build on development gains and ensure that the benefits trickled down to the poor. In that regard, investment in agriculture would be of key importance, and the country would continue to promote investment in tourism, manufacturing, energy, and science and technology. Least developed countries would need the support of their cooperating partners and the international community as a whole.

41. The representative of **France** said that the allocation of aid must be based on needs, and not solely on performance, and emphasized that ODA must go to the poorest countries. Greater mobilization of all sources of financing was desirable, including greater access to local resources, particularly through fiscal reform and greater involvement by new financing sources, including from the private sector. The creation of a tax on international financial transactions was a priority of the French presidency of the Group of Twenty (G-20). Specific support to least

developed countries must be focused on tackling climate change and food insecurity, among other priorities. The severity and frequency of the recent multiple crises necessitated improved access by least developed countries to agricultural markets.

42. The representative of **China** said that, through preferential terms of trade and proper aid distribution, the international community had taken proper measures to support least developed countries. The Istanbul outcome document would directly affect the timely realization of the Millennium Development Goals. The following elements should be included in the outcome document: reduction of poverty and hunger, ownership by least developed countries of their own development process with attention to be paid to their special needs, and ODA goals should be enhanced and the predictability of resources increased. China expressed strong support to least developed countries in dealing with new challenges, including by providing resources and technical assistance. South-South cooperation was important and China looked forward to engaging with all concerned and making joint contributions for the prosperity of least developed countries.

43. The representative of **Indonesia** said that the draft programme should support the efforts of least developed countries to stimulate economic growth while strengthening productive capacities, savings and capital formation and investment. Despite extensive trade liberalization in past decades, the existing production and trade structures of least developed countries offered them only limited opportunities to benefit fully from a globalized world market driven by knowledge-intensive products and services. The Istanbul programme of action must also provide adequate tools and support for least developed countries to address environmental challenges, and could be used as an opportunity to design a greener development strategy.

44. The representative of **Norway** said that the outcome document should recall fundamental principles, including human rights, gender equality, good governance and democracy. The Government was committed to providing full financing for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) and, in this regard, welcomed a debate on a new international debt resolution mechanism to guarantee equivalent treatment to all creditors and legal predictability. Norway was also working to place the issue of illicit financial flows from developing nations higher on the international agenda and to introduce a levy on financial transactions that could provide stable and substantial financing for development. The link between climate change, development and sustainable growth was vital and should be given due attention in the Conference outcome document.

45. The representative of **Cuba** said that developed countries were not even remotely meeting their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product to ODA. There was thus an urgent need for resources beyond foreign aid to help least developed countries fight the effects of multiple crises. South-South cooperation must play an important role as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, he added. The Istanbul programme of action must be based on respect for the right of least developed countries to determine their own national priorities and specific cooperation needs, without conditions.

46. The representative of **Eritrea** recalled that the Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries adopted on 27 September 2010 called for a scaled-up global partnership to ensure that all least developed countries realize all the

Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Given the persistent financial and economic crisis, the much talked about ODA would either stagnate or decline in the short term. As such, there must be serious follow through on the Aid for Trade initiative and the Enhanced Integrated Framework. The critical resource gap, owing to unfilled ODA commitments and failure to deliver on other promises, had become a concern for everyone.

47. The representative of **Afghanistan** said it was becoming increasingly clear that some least developed countries, including his own, would be unable to realize the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. According to its national development strategy, Afghanistan, as a post-conflict nation, had designated 2020 as the target year for realizing the Goals. An enhanced, effective and consolidated package of international support measures, in line with General Assembly resolution 63/227, was needed. The Istanbul outcome document should include a robust mechanism for monitoring and follow-up of the implementation of the next programme of action with clearly defined and shared accountability of least developed countries and their development partners.

48. The representative of the **Dominican Republic** stressed that efforts should focus on creating a structural transformation for reducing poverty and increasing prosperity. Women's access to education, health care and political participation must increase if least developed countries were to advance. The global partnership to be formed in Istanbul could examine building up the resilience of least developed countries against external shocks, natural disasters and other crises, keeping in mind the UNDP recommendations in its accelerated Millennium Development Goal framework.

49. The representative of **Finland** said that ODA could only be one element in promoting sustainable development. Finland's development policy emphasized inclusive economic growth, trade and productive capacities, investment in infrastructure, an enabling environment for business and the private sector, and investment in agriculture and rural development. Climate change, the role of women, good governance, the rule of law and employment were also crucial issues. Development policy must be linked with other policy areas such as trade, environment and climate change. Links with the different international processes, including those of the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio plus 20), must be ensured.

50. The representative of **South Africa** urged countries to ensure that in the next decade the least developed countries would have the assistance of targeted and results-oriented support measures that would lead to their graduation from their current status. Among other things, it was critical to make available adequate and predictable resources in order to improve infrastructure, agriculture, and information and communications technology. The adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in 2001 had re-energized the drive to address the continent's underdevelopment, while the Africa Action Plan outlined steps to increase the progress of priority programmes. Now the moment must be seized to advance the development agenda that the United Nations held dear.

51. The representative of **UNCTAD** said that since 2001, the agency had undertaken analytical and technical cooperation functions, including the preparation of *The Least Developed Countries Report, 2010* (UNCTAD/LDC/2010), as part of the follow-up to the Brussels Programme of Action. UNCTAD had held a series of

preparatory events for the Istanbul Conference, including a pre-conference event in Geneva in November 2010, on building the productive capacity of least developed countries for sustainable and inclusive development and an expert meeting in Caen, France, in October 2010, on tourism development in least developed countries. The two executive sessions of the Trade and Development Board meeting were held on the development challenges of least developed countries. The representative stressed that good development governance would be vital for success. The least developed countries must be empowered to assume leadership of their national development strategies, but the international community must enable ownership and policy space. Specific measures to support least developed countries were not adequate to address their structural constraints, thus the need for a broader aid agenda: a new international development architecture for least developed countries including coherent measures in terms of finance, investment, technology, trade, commodities and climate change.

52. The representative of **IOM** said that the recommendations made at the pre-conference event on migration, development and remittances offered a wealth of material for consideration in the drafting of the next programme of action. It was well recognized that migration could provide critical livelihood and education opportunities and that tapping into the human capital of skilled emigrants and diaspora members was an important step in promoting development in least developed countries. In addition, the least developed countries were the most vulnerable to displacement as a result of environmental degradation exacerbated by climate change. Measures that could be taken by least developed countries included the consideration of migration as a potential adaptation strategy to move people out of harm's way and enhance prospects for gaining sustainable livelihood. For development partners and the international community, financial and other support for national adaptation programmes of action, including the African Union-based national adaptation programme of action, would be critical, including considering migration as an adaptation strategy before crisis strikes.

53. The representative of the **Common Fund for Commodities** said that the Common Fund had helped small producers in least developed countries to foster horizontal and vertical diversification and increase their access to global markets. The Secretary-General had called for a global commodity fund for development to raise agricultural productivity, ensure efficient food utilization, promote greater use of existing technological advances and develop domestic markets, among other things. The Istanbul programme of action should focus on capacity-building on trade-related issues and technical assistance on sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards to allow least developed countries' commodity producers and processors to meet product and processes standards. There is a need to improve integration into value chains and to enhance vertical diversification through the proposed International Diversification Fund. Initiatives were required to mitigate the negative effects of instability of commodity prices and earning from commodity exports, including through price risk management and the establishment of viable safety nets for small producers, and through compensatory finance schemes.

54. The representative of **ILO** recalled that the transmission from capital investment to employment was not automatic, as high investment levels and growth had not translated into sufficient job generation. There was a need for coherent strategies linking employment-friendly macroeconomic frameworks, public spending on infrastructure and agriculture, sectoral policies targeting bottlenecks, financial

and technical support to enterprises, especially micro, small and medium-sized, and labour market policies to facilitate enterprise creation, develop relevant training and skills and activate the labour supply. That was central to tackling the question of informality that afflicted many workers, supporting the transition to formal employment and promoting the Decent Work agenda. With its Global Jobs Pact, ILO was leading a large international initiative to promote the establishment of a basic social protection floor, aimed at ensuring universal access to a basic set of essential social services.

55. The representative of the **Enhanced Integrated Framework** said the initiative supported the efforts of least developed countries to mainstream trade into national plans and policies. The Framework had already held regional orientation workshops in the Pacific, Asia and Africa regions, and had more than 20 viable project proposals. Least developed countries were already benefiting from the Framework, which was part of a partnership of those countries' Governments, the private sector and civil society. Special funds and initiatives exclusively geared towards supporting least developed countries' socio-economic development, although already existing, should be strengthened and consolidated.

56. The representative of **FAO** discussed priorities identified at an event, held on 16 December 2010, on enhancing food security through agricultural development and access to food and nutrition. Investments in agriculture would serve to address structural problems, weaknesses in institutional frameworks, technology gaps and poor links to markets. Agriculture, food and nutritional security must be integrated into national development strategies. In order to strengthen the resilience of least developed countries to the risk and uncertainty of global trade and food markets, responses must be country-specific and context-specific so as to reduce food-price volatility. An improved global surveillance system on export availabilities and import demand should be promoted. Social protection should be promoted, as should the capabilities of poor rural people to manage risk, through education, skills development and adequate access to business-support services.

57. The representative of **UNDP** said that, despite significant progress towards global realization of the Millennium Development Goals, significant challenges remained in least developed countries. The new programme of action should include elements of a global initiative and partnership for building productive capacity. The twentieth-anniversary edition of the UNDP *Human Development Report* could provide valuable insights. It showed that while people were healthier, more educated and wealthier today than they were 20 to 40 years ago, the disparities between countries were striking. Overall, the average human development index value of least developed countries was the lowest of any group. It was necessary to scale up what worked, grounded in the principles of sustainability, equity and empowerment, and to invest in areas proven to have a multiplier effect across all the Millennium Development Goals. UNDP was implementing a new tool — the Millennium Development Goals acceleration framework — to help countries identify bottlenecks to progress and effective solutions.

58. The representative of **WIPO** mentioned that WIPO had organized four regional forums on using intellectual property for development in preparation for the fourth Conference on Least Developed Countries, including topics of technical and scientific information for development, documentation and digitization of information on traditional knowledge. A WIPO parallel event would be organized

during the Istanbul Conference, with the following deliverables for least developed countries: establishment of technology and innovation support centres for least developed countries; development of human and technical skills for accessing and using scientific information; use of branding for promoting the export of trade for least developed countries; facilitation of access to knowledge and building knowledge infrastructure in innovation and creativity offices in least developed countries; establishment of national policies and strategies for innovation and creativity; WIPO assistance in developing intellectual property strategies for the protection of least developed countries' traditional knowledge, including establishing databases and other forms of documentation of traditional cultural expressions.

59. The representative of the **United Republic of Tanzania** stressed that financing for development was critical, as was capacity-building for development, good governance and the delivery of basic social services. Infrastructure, especially for unlocking productive capacities in agriculture and industrialization, was also required. Expanded preferential trade access could encourage, rather than penalize, value addition within least developed countries, and provide fair prices for natural resources, value-added products and labour from least developed countries. Triangular cooperation would also make it possible for least developed countries to access and make better use of experiences of other developing countries.

60. The representative of **Benin** stressed the need to overcome obstacles to formulating a new programme of action that would ensure that least developed countries join the ranks of prosperous nations. He noted that least developed countries were virtually dependent on external sources of financing, such as ODA, adding that such dependency exposed them to external shocks like the world financial and economic crisis and the food and energy crises, which had had major repercussions. He commended the United Nations, especially the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, for its engagement in the preparatory process for the Istanbul Conference and underlined the need to diversify the economies of least developed countries, build productive capacity in least developed countries and reduce their vulnerability to external shocks.

61. The representative of the **Lao People's Democratic Republic** said that his country, which enjoyed one of the highest regional growth rates, had reduced the poverty level from 48 per cent in 1990 to 26.8 per cent in 2009, but despite that progress, the maternal mortality rate had remained high and HIV/AIDS and malaria were ongoing challenges. To ensure the success of a new programme of action, renewed political commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including least developed countries, developed-country partners and the United Nations system, was required. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States needed to play a more active role, particularly in the area of inter-agency coordination and resource mobilization.

62. The representative of **Mali** said that, according to the 2010 report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, Development Assistance Committee donors allocated only 0.09 per cent of gross national income as ODA to least developed countries, much less than the objective of 0.15 to 0.2 per cent. Despite the objectives, least developed countries were not a preferred investment destination. Mali has launched programmes to ensure structural

transformation, including upgrading its infrastructure and strengthening support for small- and medium-sized enterprises, especially those involved in agricultural processing. The representative stated that the lack of regular follow-up was a shortcoming, and stressed the need for such a mechanism, particularly at the national and regional levels, with a stronger role for the United Nations system in follow-up and implementation.

63. The representative of **Uganda** said that the new programme of action must focus on alleviating the financial shortfalls of least developed countries as a matter of priority, and list concrete measures to address their specific vulnerabilities. It should focus on building productive capacities to increase the ability of least developed countries to efficiently and competitively produce a wide range of goods and services with high added value, leading them to economic diversification and structural transformation. The graduation criteria should not be based on a narrow set of characteristics, such as per capita income, but on a comprehensive assessment of characteristics reflecting significant socio-economic transformation. He concluded by recommending that more emphasis should be put on the fulfilment of outstanding global commitments to least developed countries, instead of seeking new commitments that would be likely to remain unfulfilled.

64. The representative of **Burkina Faso** said that, according to the 2010 report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, the lack of results was due to slow economic growth, financial shortfalls, climate change and other factors. The Secretary-General had recommended that least developed countries develop viable statistics systems, mobilize additional financial resources and become more involved in global governance. The representative urged delegates to use the input by least developed countries as the main negotiating document as the least developed countries are the main stakeholders. He emphasized the need to facilitate access to global markets, food security, more financial resources, capacity-building, development of local industries, information and communications technology, energy production and basic social services.

65. The representative of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** said that, during the first phase of implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, his country had been divided by political and military factions following civil war, a situation that eventually had led to the establishment of a transitional Government. The second half of that period had been more fortunate, as the country had worked with the international community to enhance resources, with a view to rationalizing public spending. Such efforts had led to improvements in the business climate, governance and the rule of law, allowing the country to reach the completion point for eligibility for the HIPC Initiative process. He said that partners should remove their trade barriers in line with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration and conclude the World Trade Organization Doha Round.

66. The representative of **Pakistan** said that the international community would need to reflect on what had worked in the past and identify the obstacles that had prevented the full realization of the Brussels Programme of Action in order to craft a focused, clear and doable development strategy for least developed countries. As least developed countries were predominantly dependent on agriculture, the new programme of action must aim to enhance agricultural productivity and promote agroindustry. He called for an early conclusion of the World Trade Organization Doha Round and for the creation of mechanisms to manage debt burdens. The

programme of action must be designed to allow maximum flexibility and policy space for development programmes in least developed countries.

67. The representative of **Malawi** said the aspiration of the Malawian people was to graduate from the least developed country list and become a middle-income economy by 2020, a vision articulated in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy. The implementation of that plan had yielded various positive outcomes, including an average GDP growth rate of 7.5 per cent over the last five years. The upcoming Istanbul Conference would offer a chance to revitalize the global partnership, appeal to development partners to open their markets to goods from least developed countries, attract meaningful investment, and appeal to developed nations to live up to their financial pledges. Annual reviews of the new programme of action could be made easier by setting annual targets for various indicators, he added.

68. The representative of **Haiti** noted that the date of that day's meeting of the Committee coincided with the first anniversary of the massive earthquake that had struck his country on 12 January 2010, which had led to the destruction of 50 per cent of its GDP. The situation in Haiti, prior to one of the most devastating disasters in history, had also been very difficult, with the country having experienced four hurricanes in one year. He pointed out that close to 1 million Haitians remained in tents and camps for the displaced, and the cholera epidemic was causing deaths every day. Even though Governments were mainly responsible for improving the welfare of their people, their lack of resources meant they needed the help of development partners to tackle challenges. Haiti was working to ensure good governance and social policies, but it needed substantial aid from development partners to make that happen. At the International Donors' Conference for Haiti, held on 31 March 2010, the international community had pledged $10 billion for reconstruction, but only a very small part of that aid had reached Haiti.

69. The representative of **Thailand** said the Istanbul Conference programme of action should emphasize the need to enhance productive capacity, which was fundamental to growth and structural transformation. In some countries, it might even be desirable to bypass industrialization, with the aim instead of building a creative economy, with value generated by intellectual capital. The vulnerabilities of least developed countries must be addressed in order to minimize the risks of severe economic damage from external shocks. Least developed countries needed continued ODA, foreign direct investment and preferential trade arrangements. Regional integration could also play a vital strategic role. Finally, he stressed that assistance to least developed countries should take into account their priorities and development agendas.

70. The representative of **Qatar** recalled that the international community had committed to make globalization more comprehensive, inclusive and just, sparing least developed countries the risk of marginalization from the global economy. International cooperation, free trade, and economic liberalization were the best ways to achieve economic development in least developed countries. She called for the resumption of the suspended Doha trade talks and the implementation of the Hong Kong Declaration on duty-free and quote-free market access and partnerships between civil society and Governments.

71. The representative of **Madagascar** said that action should be taken to reshape the development cooperation landscape to drive substantial and long-lasting change. The success of a new programme of action would depend on the coherence,

coordination and complementarity on the part of development partners. "Business as usual" was not an option and there was cause for optimism that future challenges could be tackled through development-oriented, coherent national policies, coupled with strong and predictable international development cooperation targeted to meet specific country needs.

72. The representative of **Maldives** referred to the country's graduation from least developed country status on 1 January 2011, and stated that graduation should be seen as an achievement. Maldives would face new challenges with the loss of least developed country benefits, and it should strive to overcome those challenges by speeding up its market-based and private sector-led economic reforms. Graduation must not occur in an overly abrupt or haphazard manner, but rather as part of a carefully calibrated process based on the United Nations-endorsed concept of "smooth transition", taking into account the specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States. Although "smooth transition" was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 46/206 (1991) and 59/209 (2004), the concept had not been implemented, since there was no clear idea of what it meant and who was responsible for it. With the exception of advice from UNCTAD, Maldives had received almost no United Nations support in preparation for graduation, either in terms of capacity-building, advice, impact assessments, or phased withdrawal of United Nations travel support. A "smooth transition mechanism" should have reassessed the country's socio-economic situation relatively close to its formal graduation date in order to examine the effectiveness of its transition plan. The concept of smooth transition must be institutionalized in a new programme of action so that others could face graduation on a sure footing.

73. The representative of **Sierra Leone** said that 10 years since Brussels, huge challenges and most of the structural weaknesses of least developed countries remained, despite some progress. Sierra Leone had developed, with support from development partners, its agenda for change: a second-generation poverty reduction strategy paper. Investment in feeder roads and the installation of a small commercialization programme was showing positive results in agricultural production, including rice, to bolster food security. In 2010, the Government had begun providing free health care for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under the age of five to reduce high infant and maternal mortality rates. The representative noted that positive results were already evident, and that it was encouraging that, for the first time in 10 years, Sierra Leone was ranked above the bottom countries with respect to the Human Development Index.

74. The representative of the **World Tourism Organization** said sustainable tourism had emerged as a unique opportunity for increasing the participation of least developed countries in the world economy and an important source of employment, especially for women and youth. It was the leading export sector and source of foreign exchange for non-oil exporting least developed countries. The sector also offered a huge potential for future growth, reflected in the growing number of countries including it in their national development plans and strategies. Sustainable tourism aimed to generate income and employment while preserving the environment and culture of local communities. A group of United Nations agencies had created a steering committee on tourism for development, which would work towards integrated and coherent support by the United Nations system for the development of tourism in least developed countries. For the Istanbul Conference, the Committee

had agreed to various deliverables, including the presentation of a joint position paper intended to lead to the creation of a multilateral trust fund for tourism.

75. The representative of the **Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa** said efforts to address climate change in least developed countries must focus on implementing plans for the sustainable management of land in addition to combating desertification, land degradation and drought and to improve the conditions of ecosystems. The loss of fertile topsoil and arable land had caused water scarcity and recurring droughts that fuelled food insecurity and poverty. The Convention and its 10-year strategy, adopted in September 2007, aimed to forge a global coalition and partnerships to combat those ills, and to use proven sustainable-management land practices to improve the living conditions of affected populations and affected ecosystems. He urged development partners to provide least developed countries with adequate funding to conserve the land and to protect it from the consequences of climate change. Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought deserved a prominent place in the Istanbul outcome document.

76. The representative of **UNESCO** said that quality education was a primary driver in reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development, with a strong link between education and higher growth. The effects of low scientific literacy rates and the poor quality of scientific education in least developed countries had been compounded by brain drain and a lack of awareness about the importance of such foundations. Information and communication technologies and culture should also be priorities of the Istanbul programme of action. Finally, climate change was affecting everything in least developed countries, from sea levels to food security to migration.

77. The representative of **WMO** said the productive capacity of least developed countries in agriculture, transport, energy, industry, tourism and other areas had been negatively affected by extreme weather events due to climate change Least developed countries must be provided with sound data and climate services to help them manage climate risk. By any standard, outstanding progress had been made in the science of weather and climate in the last decade, but only a few least developed countries had benefited from it because least developed countries lacked the capacity to exploit climate knowledge and its potential benefits. In September 2009, WMO and its partners had organized World Climate Conference 3, which had established a global framework for climate services, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries

78. The representative of **Mauritania** explained that progress since 2001 had been limited and the situation in Mauritania was still difficult as a result of droughts, the economic and financial crisis and a difficult political situation. However, there had been some progress with respect to productive capacities, infrastructure and trade. A new programme of action should pool efforts to make further progress and give the highest priority to agriculture and food security, as well as infrastructure and human development. He further stated that the success of a new programme of action would depend on the quality of its follow-up mechanisms. Thus, regular and effective mechanisms for follow-up were needed, with the strong involvement of partners.

III. Closing statements

79. Ambassador **Jarmo Viinanen** of Finland, Chair of the Committee, proposed that he and other members of the Bureau would issue, by 4 February 2011 and prior to the second session of the Preparatory Committee, a single document on the basis of the least developed countries document, incorporating also other inputs and contributions made during the session. That document would serve as the basis for intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome of the Istanbul Conference, which should start on 8 February 2011 with the aim of making significant progress before the second session of the Committee, which was agreed by the meeting.

80. The meeting adopted the draft report of its session (A/CONF.219/IPC/L.1), submitted by Ambassador **Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou** of Benin, Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, who summarized the statements made by 48 Member States and 12 intergovernmental organizations during the session. He noted their emphasis of the fact that, despite some progress in economic growth and achieving the Millennium Development Goals, much remained to be done in the implementation of the 2001 Brussels Programme of Action.

81. The **Secretary-General of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries**, Cheick Sidi Diarra, stressed that this session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee had been very effective. The least developed countries had exercised effective ownership and leadership of the process and had come forward with a comprehensive, ambitious and forward-looking draft programme of action, which provides an excellent basis for further discussions. There had been convergence on a large number of areas in the discussions, which would provide a good basis for further consultations. He concluded by expressing thanks to the Chair and the host country, as well as to all contributors to the least developed countries trust fund, which supported the participation of a large number of delegates from least developed countries at this meeting and other events.

82. Ambassador **Jarmo Viinanen** of Finland, Chair of the Committee, said that speakers had focused on such key issues as productive capacity, human and social development, gender equality and women's empowerment, commodities and trade, the global financial, energy, food and climate change crises, financing for development, capacity-building, good governance and graduation from the least developed countries category. Convergence on many of those issues would contribute constructively to upcoming negotiations on the outcome document.

83. Ambassador **Gyan Chandra Acharya** of Nepal, speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, lauded the constructive and flexible spirit in which least developed countries and their development partners had deliberated during the session. He also expressed the expectation that the Istanbul Conference would come up with concrete deliverables that would lead to real change in the lives of people in least developed countries.

84. Committee Vice-Chair, **Lilla Makkay**, Director of International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said she expected the single document to take into account the comments of all Member States.

85. Ambassador **Ertuğrul Apakan** of Turkey, speaking in his capacity as the representative of the host country for the Conference, said the session discussions

had illustrated the need for a new global architecture to improve the lives of almost 1 billion people in least developed countries by putting them on a sustained path of economic growth.

Annex

Attendance

Afghanistan
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bangladesh
Belgium
Benin
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Canada
Central African Republic
Chile
China
Comoros
Czech Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gambia
Germany
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Mauritania
Mexico
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Niger
Norway
Paraguay
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
Senegal

Sierra Leone
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Togo
Turkey
Tuvalu
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Vanuatu
Yemen
Zambia

United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Regional commissions New York Office

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

United Nations Development Programme

World Food Programme

Other United Nations entities

International Trade Centre

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Specialized agencies and related organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Fund for Agricultural Development

International Labour Organization

International Monetary Fund

Inter-Parliamentary Union

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

World Bank

World Intellectual Property Organization

World Meteorological Organization

World Tourism Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

Common Fund for Commodities

European Union

International Organization for Migration

International Organization of la Francophonie

Organization of the Islamic Conference

Inter-agency/joint programmes

Enhanced Integrated Framework

United Nations A/CONF.219/IPC/7

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Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Second session

New York, 4-8 April 2011

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee.
3. Substantive preparations for the Conference.
4. Approval of the draft outcome document for submission to the Conference.
5. Organizational preparations for the Conference:
   (a) Approval of the draft provisional agenda of the Conference;
   (b) Approval of the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee.

Annotations

The second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will be convened from 4 to 8 April 2011 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 65/171. The Preparatory Committee will undertake substantive preparations for the Conference, including a review of progress in the preparatory process for the Conference and its organization and a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action by the least developed countries and their development partners; identify effective international and domestic policies in the light of the outcome of the appraisal, as well as new and emerging challenges and opportunities and the means to address them; reaffirm the global commitment to addressing the special needs of

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the least developed countries; and mobilize additional international support measures and action in favour of the least developed countries.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee

The provisional agenda has been drafted by the Secretariat, in keeping with traditional practice.

Suggestions for the organization of work and a tentative timetable of meetings are contained in the annex to the present document.

3. Substantive preparations for the Conference

The Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee is expected to consider substantive preparations for the Conference.

For the consideration of item 3, the Committee will have before it the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on its first session (A/CONF.219/IPC/6);

(b) Summary of outcome documents of pre-conference events;

(c) Report of the Secretary-General: Ten-year appraisal and review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;

(d) Background documents:

(i) Summaries and synthesis of national reports on the review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[1]

(ii) Pre-conference events organized in preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (issue two);

(iii) *The Least Developed Countries Report, 2010* (UNCTAD/LDC/2010).

4. Approval of the draft outcome document for submission to the Conference

As agreed at the first session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, negotiations on the outcome of the Conference will be held between the first and second sessions, with the aim of making progress towards a draft outcome document. That document will be further negotiated at the second session of the

[1] National reports were submitted by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia (also available at www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/lang/en/pid/11422).

Committee, with the aim of submitting the draft outcome document to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries for adoption.

For the consideration of item 4, the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee will have before it the draft outcome document.

5. Organizational preparations for the Conference

(a) Approval of the draft provisional agenda of the Conference

For the consideration of this item, the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries;

(b) Approval of the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference

For the consideration of this item, the Preparatory Committee will have before it the draft provisional rules of procedure.

6. Other matters

7. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee

The report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee on its second session, as well as its report on its final session, will be submitted to the Conference.

Annex

Proposed organization of the work of the second session

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Monday, 4 April		*First plenary meeting (Opening of the meeting)*
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	1	Opening of the session by the Chair
		Statement by the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	3	Substantive preparations for the Conference
		Presentation by the Secretary-General of the Conference
		Other presentations
		General debate
		First informal meeting
3-6 p.m.		Informal consultations on the draft outcome document
Tuesday, 5 April		*Second and third informal meetings*
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.		Informal consultations on the draft outcome document
Wednesday, 6 April		Fourth and fifth informal meetings
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.		Informal consultations on the draft outcome document
Thursday, 7 April		*Sixth and seventh informal meetings*
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.		Informal consultations on the draft outcome document
Friday, 8 April		*Second plenary meeting*
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	4	Approval of the draft outcome document for submission to the Conference
	5	Organizational preparations for the Conference
		(a) Approval of the draft provisional agenda of the Conference
		(b) Approval of the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference
		Third plenary meeting
3-6 p.m.	6	Other matters
	7	Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
		Concluding remarks by the Secretary-General of the Conference
		Closure of the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee